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The Daily Chieftain.

D. M. MARRS, Editor

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VINITA, IND. TER., MARCH 25, 1904.

The fall of Port Arthur is almost as slow coming about as the resignation of the Dawes commission.

Muskogee republicans are led in the municipal campaign this year by that veteran army officer, Gen. Ira L. Reeves.

The Indian appropriation bill passed the senate Thursday, and with the amendments it carries will make it necessary to go to a conference committee of the two houses.

President Roosevelt has just wasted an hour of valuable time lecturing a bunch of Sioux Indians on the necessity of abandoning horse racing and gambling and going to work. It were perfectly safe to offer one hundred thousand dollars reward to each one of them that heeds the advice for a whole week.

The rumblings from Washington indicate that some time we may have a constitutional convention and be permitted to form a state government. This would be an important event in the history of this Indian country and the opportunity must not be wasted to make some wholesome laws with reference to the practice of law.

A number of fences have been cut by orders from the Indian agent in this section recently. In many instances it works a great hardship on the owners of the land who are not financially able to purchase the necessary material for the additional fencing. It is said some of the section line being forced open pass through fields when it is but a short distance around.

The delay in opening the Cherokee land office will it is believed continue until toward the close of the present session of congress. Senator Quay and other attorneys for the Delawares have instituted tactics that can mean nothing less than delay and that practically indefinite. The segregation of lands belonging to the living registered Delawares need not stop the work of allotment as they are all in possession of the 160 acres due them under the agreement.

The democratic dissent on account of the refusal of the executive committee to allow a primary election held is a very natural result. The primary election originated with the democratic party and is one of the tenets of its political faith, and cannot be dispensed with without serious loss to the party. Much less than fifty per cent. of the democratic voters spoke by their presence at the ward meetings, and therefore was not a fair expression of the party. Take away the primary and the party is always injured.

Doubtless Clarence B. Douglas feels elated over the removal of Murphy, who in turn caused Douglas to be fired bodily from the Indian agent's office, but then it does not seem hardly necessary for Douglas to punish his readers with poster type references to his Monte Cristo ideas of revenge—South McAlester Capital.

It Was Suggested by the Phoenix.

From Washington by private wire comes the information that not only has the salary of the Indian Agent been increased, but that his power has been materially increased to that extent that he is no longer subject to the order of the Inspector, nor does his correspondence in the future pass under the supervision of a \$1500 clerk or even the Inspector. He is agent in fact as well as in name, and as a bonded official responsible on that bond can now transact the duties of this most important office without being hampered by local officials, as was suggested by the Phoenix and recommended by Mr. Bonaparte in his report.—Muskogee Phoenix.

Scissored and Otherwise

The Negro Question in Indian Territory.

The platform of the Indian Territory republicans adopted in convention at Claremore last week shows that the republicans over there have studied the bill introduced by Senator Quay and approve of it. There is a declaration in the platform that no property or educational test shall ever be imposed upon the right of suffrage in the state to be formed. It is patently and avowedly in the interest of the negro vote and is to an extent an amplification of the Quay proposition which was primarily directed to the interests of the Indian and mixed blood with tribal rights. The plank adopted at Claremore is as follows:

"In accord with the time honored doctrine of the republican party in favor of the enfranchisement of the negro, we ask of congress in granting statehood to Indian Territory that it shall incorporate in the bill for that purpose a provision that the new constitution that shall be adopted by the new state shall contain a provision granting equal suffrage to all citizens regardless of race and forever prohibiting the legislature of the new state from passing any law requiring any property or educational qualification for a voter."

It is a bold step. It is particularly gratifying to the negro leaders who have made the exploitation of the Quay bill a study in the past few months. Among them is E. P. McCabe, of Oklahoma, through whose efforts the matter has been well presented to the people of the Indian Territory.

There is unquestioned justice in the position of the Indian Territory Republicans, and in the struggle that will come in the first campaign where the people will vote if that plank shall remain it will be worse than a travesty if every negro voter does not support the ticket and make an effort to forget himself in the welfare of the party.—State Capital.

More About Sequoyah.

The Rev. Thomas Roberts, a missionary of the Baptist church to the Cherokees in 1821, in his autobiography, furnishes the following tribute to Sequoyah, inventor of the Cherokee alphabet:

"I will refer to a wonderful interposition of Providence which raised the Cherokee churches from barbarism to a state of civilization and general knowledge of letters, so that the whole people could acquire the art of reading God's word in a few days. While we engaged, day and night, in forming an alphabet of Roman letters adapted to the language, translating the Sunday school spelling book into Cherokee, there was an illiterate Indian named George Guess busily engaged in the same work. We were entirely ignorant of him and the object which occupied his heart and hands. While we used our slates and pencils, Mr. Guess (poor man) had nothing better than a black coal from the hearth and a shingle to make the heaven-inspired marks that, in God's providence were destined to remove, in a very short time, the black marks of sin and ignorance from the tribe and lead them by easy steps into the knowledge of Bible truth.

"The system consists of eighty-four characters, each of which represents a syllable, and by their innumerable combinations form one of the most beautiful and comprehensive languages uttered by the human tongue.

"An edition of our translated spelling book was published in New York and hailed by the Indians as the day star; but just then the new system was brought to the notice of the council, who rewarded Guess for the invention. It immediately superseded all the ineffectual attempts of the missionaries, and they gladly accepted the syllabic alphabet in all their ensuing productions and translations."

The Daily CHIEFTAIN

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